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| <b>Applicants:</b> | Masaaki Ueda et al.                     | <b>Examiner:</b> | Henry M. Johnson III |
| <b>Serial No:</b>  | 10/751,565                              | <b>Art Unit:</b> | 3739                 |
| <b>Filed:</b>      | January 5, 2004                         | <b>Docket:</b>   | 17339                |
| <b>For:</b>        | MEDICAL INSTRUMENT<br>HOLDING APPARATUS | <b>Dated:</b>    | October 26, 2006     |
| <b>Conf. No.:</b>  | 3667                                    |                  |                      |

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

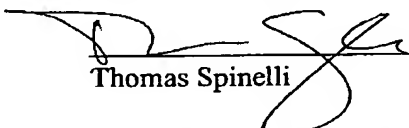
Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action dated April 26, 2006, Applicants have filed a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) herewith along with the present Preliminary Amendment. Applicants respectfully request that, prior to examination, the above-identified application be amended as follows:

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to facsimile number 571-273-8300 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Dated: October 26, 2006



Thomas Spinelli

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